

REMARKS

Claims 9-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8 have been canceled and claims 9, 11 and 17-19 have been amended. Claim 9 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sorger et al., USPN 6,828,894. Claims 4, 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sorger et al. in view of Jitaru, USPN 5,990,776. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sorger et al. in view of Schneider et al., USPN 6,525,632. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. In view of this, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 have been rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-19 have been indicated by the Examiner as being allowed. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

As the Examiner will note, claims 9 and 11 have been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. In addition, claims 17-19 have been amended to delete the word "inclusive," as this word should have been deleted by the Preliminary Amendment filed on

September 27, 2004. Since the scope of claims 9-19 has not been changed, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims should still be in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

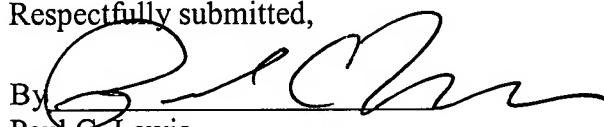
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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